

 **A** Match each part of a topic sentence to the information it gives.

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. the main idea        | <b>a.</b> What does the paragraph say about the topic? |
| _____ 2. the controlling idea | <b>b.</b> What is the paragraph about?                 |

 **B** Read the five topic sentences. Circle the main idea and underline the controlling idea in each one.

- Good weather helps people enjoy life in cities.
- Pedestrian safety is very important in a big city.
- Solving traffic problems increases people's quality of life.
- Knowing your neighbors makes you happier.
- The biggest problem in cities today is housing.



▲ People biking near the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria

 **C** Read the paragraph about Vienna. Then complete the chart with information from the paragraph.

Vienna is a great city to live in because it is so easy to move around. It's a very safe city for pedestrians. You can walk home late at night without a problem. Thanks to all the bike lanes, it's safe to ride a bike in the city, too. In total, the bike paths cover 727 miles (1,170 km) around the city. The public transportation is also good. The U-bahn, the city's subway, works 24 hours on weekends, and tickets are pretty cheap. As you can see, you don't need a car to travel around Vienna easily.

Topic sentence:	
Reason 1:	Details / example:
Reason 2:	Details / example:
Reason 3:	Details / example:
Concluding sentence:	

**WRITING NOTE**

To think of a reason why a topic sentence is true, turn the controlling idea into a *why* question and try to answer it. For example:

**Topic sentence:** Solving traffic problems increases people's quality of life.

**Why question:** Why does solving traffic problems increase people's quality of life?

**Topic sentence:** Vienna is a great city to live in because it is so easy to move around.

**Why question:** Why is it so easy to move around Vienna?

**D** Now choose one of the topic sentences from **B**. Copy the graphic organizer from **C** into your notebook and complete it with your own ideas. Write in full sentences.